

Message Text

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SUBJECT: VENEZUELA OPTIMISTIC ABOUT CIEC

1. SUMMARY: VENEZUELA IS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE RESULTS OF CIEC -- AN ATTITUDE HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY THE STAR ROLE OF THE GOV'S OWN REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CONFERENCE -- MANUEL PEREZ GUERRERO. END SUMMARY.
2. VENEZUELAN REACTION TO OUTCOME OF CIEC HAS BEEN POSITIVE AND GUARDEDLY OPTIMISTIC CONCERNING THE RESULTS TO BE EXPECTED. THE ROLE OF VENEZUELA'S MANUEL PEREZ GUERRERO AS CO-CHAIRMAN AND A KEY FIGURE IN THE SUCCESS OF THE CONFERENCE HAS BEEN CITED WITH CONSIDERABLE PRIDE.
3. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT COMMENTS ON THE MEETING WERE MADE ON DECEMBER 18 BY PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ, WHO TOLD THE PRESS THAT HE IS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE RESULTS OF THE MEETING, NOT BECAUSE IMMEDIATE RESULTS COULD BE EXPECTED, BUT BECAUSE THE SIMPLE FACT THAT THE MEETING TOOK PLACE AT ALL IS A TRIUMPH FOR THE VENEZUELAN POSITION. CAP ELABORATED BY EXPLAINING THAT THE PRESENCE OF THE U.S. AND THE OTHER INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES AT CIEC DEMONSTRATED AN ATTITUDE CONDUCIVE TO A DIALOGUE FROM WHICH A NEW ECONOMIC ORDER WOULD EMANATE. THE PRESIDENT THEN CITED VENEZUELA'S TOTAL

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SOLIDARITY WITH THE THIRD WORLD AND THE HONOR BESTOWED ON VENEZUELA

BY LDCS IN UNANIMOUSLY SELECTING MANUEL PEREZ GUERRERO TO REPRESENT THEM.

4. WHEN ASKED BY A REPORTER TO COMMENT ON THE "AGGRESSIVE ATTITUDE" OF SECRETARY KISSINGER TOWARD LDCS, PEREZ REPLIED THAT VENEZUELAN SHOULD BE PATIENT AND COMPREHENDING--THE GREAT NATIONS ARE BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR POWER IS NO LONGER SO PERVASIVE AND FIRM AS THEY BELIEVED AND THAT THEY MUST SHARE DECISIONS WITH LDCS. THE ATTITUDE OF THE U.S. IS COMPLICATED, PEREZ SAID, BY THE ELECTION PROCESS BUT IN SUBSTANCE KISSINGER, PRESIDENT FORD AND OTHER DC LEADERS UNDERSTAND THAT THE ERA OF EXPLOITATION OF LDCS HAS ENDED. THE FACT THAT SUCH LEADERS ATTENDED THE CONFERENCE SPEAKS LOUDER THAN KISSINGER'S WORDS, PEREZ CONCLUDED.

5. COLUMNIST LUIS ESTEBAN REY, AD DEPUTY AND SOMETIMES UNOFFICIAL SPOKESMAN FOR THE RULING PARTY, ALSO DISCOUNTED "ISOLATED PARAGRAPHS" OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S SPEECH WHICH IN REY'S VIEW IF TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT WOULD PRESENT A FALSE IMPRESSION. REY CITED KISSINGER'S "CONSTRUCTIVE PROPOSALS" WHICH LEAD TO THE PRESUMPTION THAT CONDITIONS NOW EXIST FOR A FRUITFUL DIALOG. LIKE OTHER COMMENTATORS, HOWEVER, REY PREDICTED A LONG DRAWN OUT PROCESS BEFORE CONCRETE RESULTS COULD BE ACHIEVED.

6. COMMENT: VENEZUELAN OPTIMISM ABOUT CIEC AND THE BENIGNLY CRITICAL REMARKS OF PRESIDENT PEREZ ABOUT THE U.S. ATTITUDE WHERE UNDOUBTEDLY INFLUENCED BY A DESIRE TO SUPPORT THE GOV'S STAR PLAYER -- MANUEL PEREZ GUERRERO. VENEZUELA, AS WELL AS PEREZ GUERRERO, HAVE MUCH TO GAIN FROM A SUCCESSFUL RESULT. END COMMENT.
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